



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

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Contact: Stan Jones
(317) 464-4400

GARY, EVANSVILLE, LAFAYETTE AND INDIANAPOLIS TO BE FIRST COMMUNITY COLLEGE SITES

The state's community college policy committee has approved Gary, Evansville, Lafayette and Indianapolis as recommended startup sites for Indiana's community college system. The committee met today to approve the Ivy Tech campuses that will begin offering community college classes next spring.

"These sites are in keeping with the state's commitment to reaching all Hoosiers—making affordable educational opportunities more convenient," said Stan Jones, Indiana's Commissioner for Higher Education. "The selection is also in response to strong legislative support in the selected communities."

In response to legislators' requests, the Gary site will be implemented by the IvyTech State College–Vincennes University partnership in cooperation with Indiana University Northwest and Purdue University Calumet.

Ivy Tech and Vincennes are making steady progress at working through details involved in gearing up for a spring semester "dry run." Spring and summer semesters will offer a limited number of courses at each site to ensure systems are up and ready for the official fall 2000 kick-off.

"This brings us one step closer to bringing college within reach of every Hoosier who wants to continue his or her education," said Governor Frank O'Bannon. "In today's global economy, lifelong learning is essential. Our goal is to make it accessible and affordable. Creating a community college system is a major move in that direction."

The policy committee also named Muncie, Marion and Anderson as sites for second year (2001) startup.

Indiana's community college system is being built on a partnership between Ivy Tech State College and Vincennes University. When fully operational, the system will offer community college curriculum at all 22 Ivy Tech sites and provide students with the opportunity to earn associates degrees that will be accepted by four-year colleges and universities.

Sites selected by the Policy Committee will be brought to the Legislative Council and the State Budget Committee for final approval.